

Key to ROMANS

1. BACKGROUND:

Writer: Paul the Apostle, who is also the human author of at least 12 other books in the New Testament. Written from Corinth and carried by one named Phoebe (16:1) who was traveling to Rome. Date is about A.D. 57 just previous to Paul's departure for Judea to complete his third missionary journey.

Occasion: Paul intended to visit Rome in the near future, and wrote to prepare the way for his coming. Perhaps also in his mind was the thought that if he did not arrive, the church there might have the great foundational truths of the Gospel.

2. THEME:

Doctrinally Romans is the greatest book ever written. It is the heart and soul of GOD's revelation to the people of this age. The entire body of redemption truth called in Scripture "the Gospel" is herein detailed. The most complete story of the need, the remedy, and the results of the death of CHRIST is found in Romans. The key thought is the righteousness of GOD. The key verse is 1:16. The progression of truth is from utter condemnation to complete and righteous glorification.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS:

Romans is the soul of consistency. It begins with condemnation, and proceeds through salvation, justification, sanctification (then a section on dispensational truth reconciling GOD's promises to Israel with GOD's promises to the church), ending with glorification.

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

While Romans is an Epistle (letter) it is most carefully and systematically written. It seems to present a courtroom scene with mankind on trial before Almighty GOD.

Time and time again Paul presents the tremendous questions of life and proceeds to answer them in the truth of GOD.

The entire orbit of truth is traversed beginning with man in a state of utter hopelessness and helplessness and ending with him as a son of the living GOD, absolutely righteous and possessing eternal life.

The complete answer to the all-important question of Israel's program and future is superbly dealt with in chapters 9 through 11.

5. OUTLINE:

Introduction

Salutation (1)
Personal Interest (1)
Purpose (1)

Sin's Condemnation

Gentiles (1)
Jews (2)
All (3)

CHRIST's Salvation

Abraham (4)
Justification (5)
Sanctification (6; 7)
Adoption (8)

Israel's Program

Election (9)
Rejection (10)
Restoration (11)

Consecration

Personal Purity (12)
Social Submission (13)
Brotherly Love (14)

Conclusion

Personal Plans (15)
Greetings (16)
Doxology (16)

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The most solemn, awe-inspiring, soul-chilling words ever written are found in 1:18-32. Here GOD deliberately condemns an entire universe.

The hinge point of Romans is between 3:20 and 3:21 where Paul shows that righteousness is now possible entirely apart from the merit principle.

Great, mighty, overwhelming truths are enunciated in chapters 4-7. This is some of the "**strong meat**" (Hebrews 5:14) of the Bible.

One of the greatest mountain peaks of Scripture is Romans 8. Here is introduced the HOLY SPIRIT as the believer's Helper. Whereas in chapter 7 the emphasis had been on the Christian's own strength which ended in complete failure, at the end of chapter 8 the believer is exultant in glorious victory through the power of the Spirit.

The vital question concerning the future of GOD's ancient people, the Jews, is completely and satisfactorily answered in chapters 9-11. Also, the uneasy query: If GOD had broken His covenant with Israel, would He keep it with the Church?

The last five chapters are blessed and practical, showing the outflow of the truths of the Gospel.

7. KEY:

You may read Romans straight through for it is completely logical. You would do well to read it thoughtfully 25 times, letting the teaching take hold of your life. This book will give you strength.

~ end of Romans ~

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